

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith, which place the application into condition for allowance. The present amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 2-4, 8, 9, 11-13, 17, 18, 20-22, 26, 27, 29-31, and 35-37 are pending in this application. Claims 2, 4, 9, 11, 13, 18, 20, 22, 27, 29, 31, and 36, which are independent, are hereby amended. Support for this amendment is provided throughout the specification. No new matter has been introduced by this amendment. It is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, were in full compliance with the requirements 35 U.S.C. §112. Changes to these claims, as presented herein, are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled.

II. REJECTIONS

Claims 2, 4, 8, 9, 11, 13, 18, 20, 22, 26, 27, 29, 31, and 35-37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 6,160,553 to Robertson, et al.

Claims 3, 12, 21, and 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 6,160,553 to Robertson, et al. in view of U.S. Pat. No. 5,761,655 to Hoffman.

Claim 2 recites, *inter alia*:

“...wherein a number of the plurality of areas is proportional to the size of said non-image data so as to increase the number of the plurality of areas the display area is divided into when the size of the said non-image data is larger and to decrease the number of the plurality of areas the display area is divided into when the size of the said non-image data is smaller...”(emphasis added)

As understood by Applicants, U.S. Pat. No. 6,160,553 to Robertson, et al.

(hereinafter, merely “Robertson”) relates to a graphical user interface in which object thumbnails are rendered on a simulated three-dimensional surface which exploits spatial memory and allows more objects to be rendered on a given screen. The objects may be moved, continuously, on the surface with a two-dimensional input device.

Applicants respectfully submit that portions of Robertson relied on to disclose the above identified features of claim 2, specifically Fig 14A, and column 21, lines 33-52, recite “FIG. 14A is a display 1400 in which titles are displayed for multiple object thumbnails at one time. This may be initiated by the user selecting a single object thumbnail after which the application highlights object thumbnails (e.g., using the implicit query function) or by the user selecting more than one thumbnail at a given time. A single pop-up window 1410 having a list of titles (or other descriptive text) 1412 is used to indicate neighboring object thumbnails. Visual links 1414 are provided from each title 1412 to its associated object thumbnail. Note that the pop-up window 1410 may be translucent such that object thumbnails (e.g., 1416) behind it are not occluded. FIG. 14B is a display 1400' which depicts an alternative method of highlighting object thumbnails that neighbor a selected object thumbnail. In this case, neighboring object thumbnails are projected onto the surface of a displaced regions, such a spherical protrusion 1402', of the landscape. As the user's selection changes, the region of displacement moves across

the landscape such that the selected object thumbnail is always within the center of the displaced region.”

Applicants submit that such disclosure in Robertson does not teach or suggest increasing the number of plurality of areas the display area is divided when the size of the non-image data is larger, as asserted on page 3 of the Office Action. Furthermore, such disclosure does not teach or suggest “wherein a number of the plurality of areas is proportional to the size of said non-image data so as to increase the number of the plurality of areas the display area is divided into when the size of the said non-image data is larger and to decrease the number of the plurality of areas the display area is divided into when the size of the said non-image data is smaller”, as recited in claim 2, therefore, does not render claim 2 unpatentable.

Applicants respectfully submit that nothing has been found in Robertson that would teach or suggest the above-identified feature of independent claim 2. Specifically, Applicants submit that Robertson fails to disclose or suggest that a number of the plurality of areas is proportional to the size of said non-image data so as to increase the number of the plurality of areas the display area is divided into when the size of the said non-image data is larger and to decrease the number of the plurality of areas the display area is divided into when the size of the said non-image data is smaller, as recited in claim 2.

Therefore, independent claim 2 is patentable.

For reasons similar to those described above with regard to amended independent claim 2, amended independent claims 4, 9, 11, 13, 18, 20, 22, 27, 29, 31, and 36 are patentable.

III. DEPENDENT CLAIMS

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

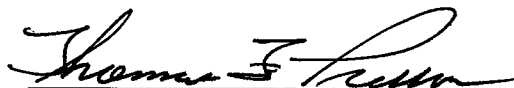
In the event the Examiner disagrees with any of statements appearing above with respect to the disclosures in the cited references, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate those portions of the reference, or references, providing the basis for the contrary view.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicants respectfully request early passage to issue of the present application.

Please charge any fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,
FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG LLP

By:



Thomas F. Presson
Reg. No. 41,442
(212) 588-0800